

SENATE RESOLUTION 119

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Robert Moyer for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their personal and professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Robert Moyer, who is a highly respected and expert cook at Corky's Barbecue on Poplar Avenue, in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Robert Moyer is a professional who practices his craft year round; he is a master of the pits in charge of pork ribs and shoulders that determine Corky's acclaimed reputation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moyer is an extreme perfectionist and everyone loves him; he takes on a role almost as a father in the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, the legacy all began when Mr. Moyer was a young boy; at the age of five, Robert Moyer spent a great deal of time at the Crossroads Café, where Mississippi State University fans would stop for the famous barbecue, in his hometown of Mayhew; and

WHEREAS, Richard Duncan worked his magic cooking the pork shoulders at the café and eventually allowed the young Robert Moyer to rake coals in the long, low pit; and

WHEREAS, a legendary Mississippi barbecue cook, Mr. Duncan shared the secrets of cooking pork shoulders to perfection with his five-year-old assistant; and

WHEREAS, Robert Moyer made up his mind at a young age to follow his passions in the restaurant business; at the age of eleven he moved to Memphis and took a job busing tables at Fortune's Jungle Garden; and

WHEREAS, after proving his astute skill for cooking pork, Robert Moyer was promoted to pitman, a job he successfully carried out for two years; and

WHEREAS, a 1964 graduate of Hamilton High School, he then went to work at an IHOP, continuing his inevitable gravitation to the food business; and

WHEREAS, ten years passed and, in 1974, Mr. Moyer began working at the Public Eye, a restaurant in Overton Square that specializes in barbecued ribs; and

WHEREAS, with no prior experience cooking ribs, Robert Moyer sought out yet another legend in the business; Brady Vinson, owner of Brady and Lil's, had "the best ribs I'd ever eaten" declared Mr. Moyer; and

WHEREAS, honored to be a protégé under Mr. Vinson, Robert Moyer learned the secrets and mysteries of cooking ribs to perfection; and

WHEREAS, Corky's had its inception when Don Pelts bought the Public Eye; the restaurant opened in 1984 and has been a cornerstone in Memphis ever since; and

WHEREAS, for a brief time, Mr. Moyer and his family lived in Vermont where they joined forces cooking barbecue in the New England town; he was often interviewed by school children in the community in regard to his experiences marching with Martin Luther King, Jr. and growing up in a sharecropper's family in rural Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moyer is instrumental in the huge success the Corky's establishment has experienced; he trained the kitchen staff, and consistently produces the exceptional barbecue and ribs so sought out by Memphians and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Robert Moyer epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moyer is most grateful for the love and encouragement he shares with his wife Shirley; he is the proud father of daughters Monica and Tamika Jones, and son-in-law Greg Jones; and

WHEREAS, his ceaseless drive and dedication to his profession are evidenced through his personal motto, an African parable: "Everyday a gazelle wakes up knowing if he doesn't run fast enough he'll be eaten by a lion. Everyday a lion wakes up knowing if he doesn't run faster than a slow gazelle, he'll starve. Whether you're a gazelle or a lion, everyday you know you've got to hit the ground running"; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Robert Moyer for his renowned cooking talents and estimable work ethic; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. Robert Moyer for his service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.